diesel and maintenance of staff cars in Ministries/Departments is also not centrally maintained. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to withdraw this facility.

RBI Scheme on Export Credit

157. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had, in the recent past, announced a Scheme of post shipment export credit denominated in foreign currency for the exporters; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the Scheme and what are the reasons for implementing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India introduced a Scheme of Post-Shipment Export Credit denominated in Foreign Currency (PSCFC) to be operated by the scheduled commercial banks with effect from 1st January, 1992.

(b) The objective of the Scheme is to provide exporters with post-shipment credit denominated in US Dollars at rates of interest comparable to international interest rates. Under the Scheme, there is no grant of foreign currency loan as such to the exporter; the post-shipment credit liability of the exporter will be denominated in US Dollars and it will have to be liquidated by export proceeds. In respect of export bills drawn in currencies other than US dollar, the credit would be denominated in US Dollars after conversion at the appropriate exchange rate.

Exporters may continue to obtain post-shipment export credit under the existing schemes in rupees or avail of post shipment export credit denominated in US Dollar under the PSCFC Scheme.

The rate of interest to be charged by banks on US Dollar denominated post-shipment export credit will be fixed by Reserve Bank of India and announced from time to time. Effective 1st January, 1992, rate of interest on US Dollar denominated post-shipment credit has been fixed at 8.5 per cent per annum.

India's debt servicing ratio to export earnings

158. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of foreign debts as at the end of December, 1991;

(b) what is the present debt servicing ratio to the country's export earnings;

(c) whether there has been any increase in the ratio; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total amount of foreign debt outstanding as at the end of March, 1991 was Rs. 100425 crores. Information as at the end of December, 1991 is not available as the accounts for the period are not yet finalised.

(b) As per the latest available estimates, the debt service ratio to the country's export earnings is 29.2 per cent for the year 1990-91.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

राज्यों द्वारा किसानों के कर्जों का माफ किया जाना:

159. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं जिन्होंने दिसम्बर, 1989 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1991 तक की अवधि के दौरान किसानों के कर्जे माफ किए हैं और प्रत्येक राज्य में कितनी-कितनी राशि के कर्जे माफ किए गए हैं; और

(ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उपर्युक्त राज्यों में से प्रत्येक राज्य को किसानों के कर्जों को माफ करने के लिए कितनी-कितनी सहायता उपलब्ध कराई है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलबीर सिंह): (क) माननीय सदस्य का आशय सम्भवतः कृषि और ग्रामीण ऋण राहत योजना, 1990 से है जिसके तहत सरकार ने 15 मई, 1990 से किसानों सहित पात्र